BRACEBITS

VOL. 2 OCT. 1987 NO. 10

EDITORIAL
by Hal Nason

Welcome to the latest edition of BRACEBITS! I would like to take this opportunity to urge all members of B.R.A.C.E. to attend the next meeting of B.R.A.C.E. this coming Tuesday, October 20, 1987 at the usual time and place. We are holding the elections of our officers. Several of the offices have more than one candidate. Please come to the meeting and vote for the candidate(s) of your choice. It's your club and the officers chosen will affect the growth of B.R.A.C.E. for the next year and, possibly, for years to come. So, come out and let your voice be heard!

Another reason to come to the next meeting is to witness our program this month. After the election, Charles Ross will bring in his 1040ST for a demonstration of the ST. Bring a friend! This may help you sell your allotment of raffle tickets when your guest sees what a great computer the ST is!!

I would like to thank Gary Stinnett and Greg Parsons for their help in getting my XM-301 modem repaired for me. Greg secured the necessary resistors for me and Gary was kind enough to do the installation for me. And, yes, the fix we recently published for the XM-301 modem does work!! My modem is as good as new. THANKS AGAIN GREG AND GARY!!!

And, by the way, did you know that if Nolan Bushnell had had his way, you would be the proud owners of a Syzygy computer? Well, fortunately, that name was already being used by a roofing company in California. In case you didn't know where the name, Atari, comes from, Atari means "check" in the game of GO. After Nolan's first choice was rejected, he submitted three of his favorite GO expressions as the name for his new company. So, some clerk in the office of The California Secretary of State chose the name "Atari" from the possible choices of sente, atari, and hanne. I don't know about you, but I am most grateful that this unknown person chose Atari. I just don't think I would be very comfortable being a Hanneian or a Senteian. But, I sure am <u>proud to be an Atarian!!</u>

I learned these interesting tidbits from reading the book <u>ZAP! The Rise and Fall of Atari</u> by Scott cohen. This book was written in 1984 before the Atari computer line was very successful. Warner Communications still owned Atari and had not yet introduced the XL series of computers, much less sold the company to Jack Tramiel. Obviously, Atari either did not really fall or has experienced a resurrection. Now Mr. Cohen was convinced that Atari's fortunes rested solely on the success of its Video Games, thus, the belief that Atari had fallen. Mr. Scott believed that the home computer market would not take off, and even if it did, it would be dominated by computer companies, like Apple, IBM, and the likes. Certainly, no game machine company could succeed in the computer market, after all, all computers are virtually alike and games played on them would show no difference in the way they played. Well, we know that Mr. Scott was wrong about this. Coleco's Adam failed, but Atari is <u>alive and well!!</u>

I would recommend the reading of Mr. Scott's book. But, only as an interesting book about the birth of Atari and some interesting tidbits about the people connected with the building of Atari.

DISCLAIMER

BRACEBITS is published monthly by B.R.A.C.E. (Bluegrass Region Atari Computer Enthusiasts) of Lexington Kentucky. All contents, unless otherwise noted, are public domain and available for duplication. This newsletter is created by and for dues paying members of B.R.A.C.E. It is also available on an exchange basis with any other Atari users group. Neither B.R.A.C.E. nor BRACEBITS is affiliated with the Atari Corp.. Atari and the FUJI symbol are registered trademarks of Atari Corp. Any reference to any trademark should be so noted and is acknowledged. The articles in this newsletter are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect that of the officers or the group.

Any dues paying member of B.R.A.C.E. may submit an article to the editor for publication. The deadline for submissions is the first Tuesday of the month the newsletter is due out. Articles may be edited and/or published at the discretion of the editor. Articles may be mailed to Hal Nason, 258 E. High St. #9, Lexington, KY 40508 or submitted via modem to HOMELINK! BBS (606)271-5468. AtariWriter is the preferable format, but any ASCII format will be acceptable.

B.R.A.C.E. meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The site of the meeting each month will be in room MN 263 University of Kentucky Medical Center. The public is welcome to attend our meetings but access to the library and the newsletter are limited to dues paying members of B.R.A.C.E.

B.R.A.C.E. OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: PHILLIP TAYLOR
VICE PRESIDENT: HAL NASON
TREASURER/SEC.: NORMA WILLIAMS
LIBRARIAN: PATRICIA DANRIDGE

BRACEBITS EDITORIAL STAFF
EDITOR: HAL NASON
ASST. EDITOR: PHIL TAYLOR
EDITORIAL ASST.: PAT DANRIDGE

PRESIDENTIAL SUITE
Phillip Taylor

The first bit of business that we need to cover this month is the situation that has been developing with the younger contingent in our group. It is painfully apparent that some of these members are disrupting the meeting to the detriment of the other members. One disruptive act tends to breed others and soon chaos erupts. To avoid this I have talked to certain younger members and have hopefully come to some sort of solution.

It has been decided that the younger members of the group are no longer going to be disruptive during the meetings.

To insure this I have developed, with input from other members, a system that would encourage this direction.

1. The person who is chairing the meeting would be able to impose the following sanctions against a member for disruptive behavior.

The sanctions are:

a. Loss of participation points.
b. Loss of library privileges for one meeting.
c. Ejectment from the meeting.

If such activity is continuous, the membership, on the motion of any member, may move to suspend the membership of the party who is disruptive. On the majority vote of the members present, the party's membership may be suspended for a period not to exceed 2 months.

I do understand the problems of the younger members however. Many of them get to see each other eye to eye only during Brace meetings. Many of their interests differ from the interests of the older members. Therefore A YOUNG PERSONS SIG will be established and it will meet after the regular meeting has been ajourned. This sig will be a way for young people to interact among themselves without disrupting the main meeting. HOWEVER, it is not the purpose of the Young Persons Sig to be a free-for-all recess time. There will be no violence or loud noises or horseplay allowed during this time. What will be allowed is constructive interaction between people of the same age group. A time to discuss games, who got to what level on what game, what is the latest gossip on what board, etc.

It is Brace's hope to encourage the youth in our group to become more involved with their computer. It is also Braces hope that all the members are able to enjoy the meeting and get something constructive from it.

Speaking of that, Charles Ross is going to be demonstrating some of the stuff that an ST can do. It is my hope that this will help all of you to be more successful with your ticket sales.

Remember, a $50.00 cash bonus is available to the top seller of tickets so SELL SELL SELL!

Once again, I hope that the problem with the young members will be solved at this next meeting since I do not want to impose any sanctions against anyone. However, if I see a need to, I will.

ST CORNER
by Charles Ross

Welcome to ST Corner. I hope this column will be a place that will answer many questions, as well as inform St users to new products and programs that will make computing more enjoyable. This month I decided to tackle the question of, "Why should I get an ST?"

When I bought my ST, I bought it for three reasons. I needed sixteen-bit speed, I wanted intricate programs with incredible graphics, and I knew that Atari was a name I can trust. But the question of what to do with my 8-bit Atari had me hestitating. Nevertheless, I bought a 1040 ST, not worying about trashing my trusty 800. After laying down the money, to my surprise the man who sold me the computer said, "Do you have an 8-bit?" I responded that I did, and was promptly handed a public domain Atari 8-bit emulator." Now this emulator bit was a little new to me, but sure enough it ran 8-bit programs, though a bit slow, it still could run the classics that haven't been ported over to the ST.

Later I acquired from the public domain, software emulators for Apple II, and CP/M. But the toppers are two copyrighted programs, which are well worth their money. Magic Sac is a hardware emulator that runs all Macintosh Software right off the shelf, since it is already on 3 1/2 disks. This emulator runs faster than the Mac, and shows better graphic resolution.

The last one? This is my favorite. It's called PC-Ditto, and you guessed right, it emulates the IBM PC. This is an incredible program. It is purely software based, making for a low cost and runs at about 80% speed of the IBM PC. It's just amazing to see Lotus 123 running on an ST. But why you ask, do I need programs from these other computers? Well, just look around, every computer has its certain ace in the hole. The IBM, for example, has the largest selection of software than any system, now you can have full access to these programs without shelling out the money for another computer. What I'm trying to say is, The ST is the most versatile computer around. No other system has such a variety of applications at such a low cost.

RE-ELECT PHILLIP TAYLOR
For President.

Why am I running for re-election. Probably it is due to some genetic problem or perhaps some sort of mental disease.

Well, in any event, I am running for re-election. Unlike our Kentucky candidates for govenor, I am not going to make promises that I can't keep. What I will do is tell you what direction I feel the club ought to be going. I think that BRACE is at a real crossroads. The direction we take now will shape the future for the club. We have already made a lot of progress in our club since our birth a year and a half ago. We now have a monthly newsletter. We have a better library with a growing collection of commercial software. We have taken on several fund raisers successfully. We now have a disk subscription to ANTIC.

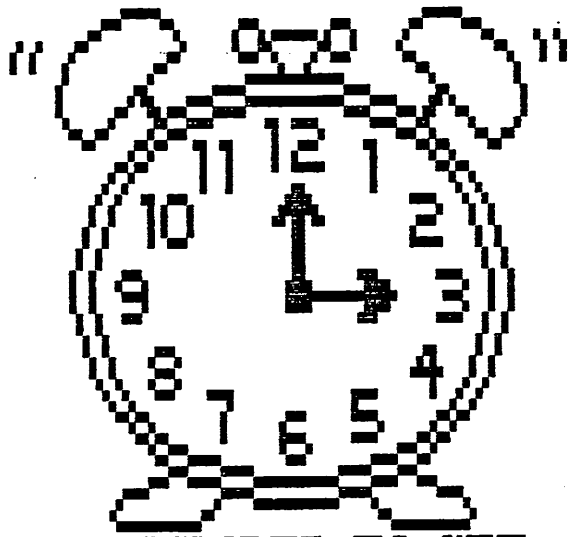
We have also had a few problems, such as the one I mentioned in the Presidential Suite this month. However such problems are to be expected with any group. I hope that I have solved this last problem successfully. The only other major problem that we have had as a group has been lack of enthusiasum. However this has been picking up due, in large part, by the institution of the Participation Point system.

My goals for the future are, increased membership, a bigger library, an ST Sig, a 24 hour BBS for BRACE exclusively and more orderly meetings.

Thanks for you support.

VICE PRESIDENTIAL PLATFORM
by Hal Nason

I'll try to keep my bid for my return to the office of Vice President of B.R.A.C.E. as short as possible. I have been Vice President only a few months, but I feel that I have achieved quite a bit in those few months of being in office. First of all, it was my idea to institute the points system in order to encourage more active participation in the activities of B.R.A.C.E. by our members. This system has been accepted and implemented. It's success speaks for itself. Next, I would like to point out that I was instrumental in the expansion of our library in two ways: (1) the points system has resulted in a large number of donations to the library of commercial and public domain software as well as quite a few books and magazines and (2) the recent purchase of three commercial games i.e. Lurking Horrors, etc. And finally, I was also instrumental in the recent drive for a disk subscription to ANTIC, which was the magazine chosen by the group for the subscription. Thus, I stand on my record and ask for your vote to retain me in the office of Vice President of B.R.A.C.E.



REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK THIS MONTH!!

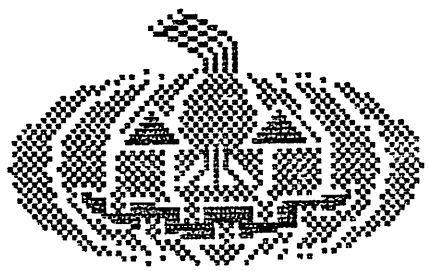
Why I Think I Would Make a Good Secretary
by Chris Dotson

I think I would make a good secretary. I probably would not be better than Norma, but I'll try my best.

I can type well and my spelling and grammar are both pretty good (we certainly want the minutes to be readable!) I also end up going to the post office at least once a week, so I can get Brace's mail frequently. I usually have enough free time to respond to correspondence addressed to Brace and handle other such matters. Above all, I want to be secretary.

Now I need to go write my acceptance speech.

ATARIJACK WISHES A HAPPY HALLOWEEN



TO ALL BRACE MEMBERS

September 15th Minutes
By Norma Williams

Our meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by our President, Phillip Taylor, announcing that our Antic Magazine disk subscription has been ordered.

Next came a report from Pat Dandridge with a large amount of new software that was donated to the library at this months meeting.

A report from Hal Nason on the newsletter was given. He told us that he had received alot of new articles from our members this past month. He was not able to use all of the articles submitted but would be able to use them in the future.

And were off....ST Raffle started this month. A CASH prize of $50. will be given to our top ticket seller. The drawing will be at our November 15th meeting.

Phillip took over and accepted nominations for the officer positions. The elections will be at our October 20th meeting. The nominees are:

President	Brian Landers Phillip Taylor
Vice President	Hal Nason Brian Landers
Treasurer	Pat Dandridge
Secretary	Chris Dotson Stanley Bundy Joe Tackett

Our demonstration this month was given by Chris Dotson. Chris started with Atari-toon. This program allows you to create cartoons. He also showed us a file called LeBreak which can be used to create messages for BBS's using the Atascii characters. His next program was called Derilizer. This program will convert picture files created with the Koala Pad into an Atascii file. He ended his demonstration with a character set editor program.

Our meeting ended with Brian Landers winning the door prize and checkouts from the library.

B.R.A.C.E. POINTS TOTALS

JOE TACKETT	91
BRIAN LANDERS	85
NORMA WILLIAMS	67
HAL NASON	48
PHILLIP TAYLOR	25
CHRIS DOTSON	15
BOB ELLIOT	15
J.T. MCELMURRAY	15
CHARLES ROSS	10
PAT DANRIDGE	10
G. BARTENHAGEN	10
STAN BUNDY	7

These totals are current as of October 15, 1987.

Library Bits
by Patricia E. Danridge

September was a banner month for donations from BRACE members. We have a number of game cassettes available for your playing pleasure thanks to Joe Tackett and Norma Williams. Some of them include Chess, Centipede. Buck Rogers, Scram and Chicken. In the realm of utilities, we now have Print Shop and Synfile Plus (Norma's donations) as well as the INDUS GT Spreadsheet and Word Processor programs (Brian Landers' donations), among other software. Thanks to Joe Tackett, the five most recent Analog issues (from April to September) have been added to the library collection.

As concerns points for September, Joe Tackett and Norma Williams are tied at 50 points each, with Brian Landers following close behind with 30 points. A report will be made on the current tally of points at the meeting.

A brief disclaimer: not all software and hardware donated last time will be available due to space problems and a shortage of blank disks (currently on order). Please be patient.

The downfall of the 8-bit
by Joe Tackett

What type computer was it that was destroyed in the Star Trek's TV series, "the return of the Archons"? What type was used to ALWAYS beat Spock in chess in Star Trek? These questions were brought up to me in a dream I had, and I decided to dig around some Star Trek novels, and finally I came to the conclusion that they are Atari's.

Yes, Atari has a good chance of lasting many centuries, but the weird thing was, they were probably PC clones made by Atari. Yes, Atari has stooped so low as to make Pc clones, this has lead to the discontinuance of the original PC. It's really too bad, Jack Tramiel (the manager of Atari) has done great things for the Atari computers, but, alas, he has turned into a money grubbing little snob that will probabally lead to the downfall of the Atari 8-bit computer. The only thing left to do is to write letters to Atari protesting the slow but sure fall of the 8-bits, but many are too busy pirating to read this, and that is the reason why the fall of the 8-bit is inevitable. Although it is too late to save the 8-bit, hopefully this article will change a few people's minds (as small as they may be).

WATCH YOUR HALLOWEEN CANDY!!!

CHRIS DOTSON 9/87
2900 SPURR ROAD
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40511

BRACEBITS
P.O. BOX 13063
LEXINGTON KY 40583-3063

BRACEBITS

VOL. 2 OCT. 1987 NO. 10

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE	TITLE	AUTHOR
1	EDITORIAL	HAL NASON
2	PRESIDENTIAL SUITE	PHIL TAYLOR
2	ST CORNER	CHARLES ROSS
3	MEET THE CANDIDATES	VARIOUS
4	MINUTES	NORMA WILLIAMS
4	POINTS	STAFF
5	LIBRARY BITS	PAT DANRIDGE
5	DOWNFALL OF THE 8 BIT	JOE TACKETT

COME TO THE NEXT MEETING OF B.R.A.C.E.
TUESDAY OCT. 20, 1987 AT 7:00 PM
RM. MN263 AT THE U.K. MEDICAL CENTER!